

C₁ 1. (twice amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a ligand-binding receptor polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising [a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

- (a)] residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2[; and
- (b) allelic variants of (a)].

C₂ 4. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 3 wherein said transmembrane domain comprises residues 340 to 363 of SEQ ID NO:2[, or an allelic variant thereof].

C₃ 6. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 5 wherein said intracellular domain comprises residues [365] 364 to 380 of SEQ ID NO:2[, or an allelic variant thereof].

7. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 25 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2 [or SEQ ID NO:4].

8. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 1 to 380 of SEQ ID NO:2 [or SEQ ID NO:4].

9. (amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 which is a DNA as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 49 to nucleotide 1188 [or SEQ ID NO:3 from nucleotide 10 to nucleotide 1149].

C₄ 13. (twice amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

- a transcription promoter;
- a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a ligand-binding receptor polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising [a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

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(a)] residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
[(b) allelic variants of (a); and]
a transcription terminator.

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16. (amended) An expression vector according to claim 15 wherein said transmembrane domain comprises residues 340 to 363 of SEQ ID NO:2[, or an allelic variant thereof].

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18. (amended) An expression vector according to claim 17 wherein said intracellular domain comprises residues 364 to 380 of SEQ ID NO:2[, or an allelic variant thereof].

19. (amended) An expression vector according to claim 13 wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 25 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2 [or SEQ ID NO:4].

20. (amended) An expression vector according to claim 13 wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 1 to 380 of SEQ ID NO:2 [or SEQ ID NO:4].

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21. (twice amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter;
(b) a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide consists essentially of a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein said first portion is a ligand binding domain of a receptor polypeptide [selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a receptor polypeptide] as shown in SEQ ID NO:2[; and

(ii) allelic variants of SEQ ID NO:2],
and wherein said second portion is an affinity tag; and

(c) a transcription terminator.

Cg 26. (twice amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising [a segment selected from the group consisting of:

(a)] residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2[; and

(b) allelic variants of (a)],

wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of transmembrane and intracellular domains ordinarily associated with hematopoietic receptors.

Cg 31. (twice amended) A chimeric polypeptide consisting essentially of a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein said first portion is a ligand binding domain of a receptor polypeptide [selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a receptor polypeptide] as shown in SEQ ID NO:2[; and

(b) allelic variants of SEQ ID NO:2], and wherein said second portion is an affinity tag.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-32 are now in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 13, 16, 18-21, 26, and 31 have been amended. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the merits of any rejection and reserve the right to prosecute claims to canceled subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. Support for the recitation of residue 364 is found in the specification at page 10, line 14.

Claims 1, 4, 13, 21, 26, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed